



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

World Trade Center  
350 South Figueroa Street, Suite 288, Los Angeles California 90071  
(213) 253-5678

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Alex Villanueva, Sheriff  
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
211 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sheriff Villanueva:

On October 6, 2020, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) deputy-involved shooting of patient Nicholas Burgos inside of Harbor UCLA Medical Center was tragic, disheartening, and raised the issue of whether deputies should provide security at Los Angeles County health facilities that the most economically vulnerable Angelenos rely on for critical medical care.

At the June 17, 2021 Civilian Oversight Commission Meeting, LASD County Services Bureau Captain Britta Steinbrenner provided a brief overview of the LASD hospital security services (including medical campuses), the scope of deputies' duties in care settings, policies that apply to deputies in care settings, and the type of training deputies have regarding security in specific care settings.

The Commission finds that the information provided by the LASD was insufficient and lacking in several areas and further review and analysis is required. Accordingly, the COC request that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) report back to the Civilian Oversight Commission in writing in 20 days with an overall review of the LASD Hospital Security Operations, including the below (provide copies of any responsive policies):

1. Provide policies for LASD interactions with patients &/or medical staff in the hospital setting.
2. Describe the impact that the removal of LASD Deputies from Hospitals providing security services would have in Los Angeles County.
3. Describe the Operation Structure and Operational Challenges (responsibility, staffing, etc.).
4. Describe the Operation Budget, including how much is received for the hospital security contract(s).
5. Describe current County Services Bureau Inter-Departmental Contracts/Agreements with other County Departments and/or Operations related to health facility security services.
6. Describe and Provide Operation Statistical Data that is maintained (Use of Force, Crimes, Complaints, etc.).
7. Provide statistics regarding the number of criminal reports taken by Sheriff Deputies as well as arrests made by and use of force incidents involving Sheriff personnel at Los Angeles County hospitals, including demographic information (if any).
8. Provide individual complaints made by individuals arising out of contact with Sheriff personnel at Los Angeles County hospital and other care settings.
9. Describe the Policies (including procedures, guidelines & protocol) & changes that have been made if any within the past 5 years.
10. Recommendations for improving the LASD Hospital Security Operations.

Brian K. Williams  
Executive Director

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We would appreciate your timely response to this request by no later than **October 19, 2021**. We also request you to attend our next COC meeting on October 21, 2021 to discuss these issues. Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me at (213) 253-5678 with any questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Williams', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brian K. Williams  
Executive Director, Civilian Oversight Commission